

Doorframe for gaming machine

Field of the invention

The present invention relates generally to gaming consoles, gaming machines or networked gaming machines and, more particularly, to gaming machines found in casinos or betting environments. In addition the present invention relates to a doorframe assembly for a gaming machine.

Background of invention

Most typical gaming machines provide a single display means located so as to be viewed through an open portal in a main gaming console doorframe assemblage (herein referred to as a doorframe). Below the display area on the main doorframe a control panel area is provided to allow a player to actuate any required player input with regards to controlling of the gaming machines various functions and game play, such as placing of bets, and initiating the commencement of games. Preferably, a coin input device and bill acceptor are also located on or near the control panel area. In addition to the described features of a typical gaming machine, more modern gaming machines have begun to incorporate a second display area on a separate, smaller door located above the main doorframe, running at the same angle as the original single display area. Where 2 display means are provided, these machines have become known as dual monitor gaming machines, and since their introduction, have increased in popularity due to the flexibility that a second display can provide with displaying dynamic game information. The fitting of an extra display into a separate smaller top door however has also created several disadvantages. In particular, although a second display area now provides a means for changing game information, the player is now forced to view the second display area more often, and when in a seated position, this requires the player to adjust their seating or posture to do so.

The second main disadvantage, is when an attendant or engineer is performing maintenance on a dual monitor gaming machine, they are forced to open both doors so as to not obstruct their work on either of the display means. Where the doors are naturally

designed to close, or simply close due to an uneven surface area, this inconvenience often leads to a time consuming duty to keep both doors open simultaneously, leaving the attendant or engineer in an acquired position when performing their respective tasks so as to not have the doors close in on them.

It is an object of the present invention to address and alleviate the problems described in the prior art discussed above, and to improve the ease of a player viewing the display means on a multiple display means gaming machine, whilst simultaneously allowing an attendant or worker to perform maintenance duties with more ease.

Summary of the invention

In accordance with the present invention, there is provided a doorframe for a gaming machine with either at least one open portal having various sections with which to view a plurality of display devices, or a number of open portals with which each may be used to view a display device. The doorframe is mounted preferably to the front of a gaming console, also known as a gaming machine, to allow a player to play a game of chance requiring a plurality of display devices which are viewable through the openings in the doorframe. Each open portal and/or section of an open portal is constructed at a varying angle to each other so that the vertical angles of the open portals or sections that meet (being the vertex of 2 given angles), are obtuse angles when viewing the front surface of the doorframe, with each display means provided being at least significantly aligned and coplanar to the angled open portal or section. This allows the display means front surface to appear to be angled towards each other rather than away from each other when viewing the front surface of the doorframe (being the surface facing the player).

Ultimately this allows the player to with as little posture changing as necessary, to view 2 or more display means by merely changing the angle of their eye or with only a slight tilt of their neck.

The display means may be affixed to the inner surface of the doorframe (i.e. the surface facing away from the player) with the display means frontal surface facing the same way as the front of the doorframe. Alternatively, the display means may be affixed to the

gaming console and viewable through the open portal or section in the doorframe. It is preferred that the display means will take up the entire of the section or opening provided for a display means, or in the alternative a substantial portion where any gaps are further covered by other means, such as a metal plate, foam, moulded fitting, padding around the rim or the display means or other such component designed to prevent or conceal gapping around the display device as is well known in the art.

Preferably located below the opening portals, is a control panel that runs substantially from one edge of the doorframe to the other. Alternatively the control panel may be detached from the gaming machine so as to be played from a remote location, though general within viewing range. The control panel provides a player an activation means for the game played on the gaming machine, though a touch screen display may also be used in conjunction with or as an alternative to the control panel. A coin and ticket dispenser is optionally placed on or in close proximity to the doorframe. Preferably the doorframe would also include a loyalty card input device as well known in the art.

A second important aspect to the doorframe is its ability to also allow an engineer or attendant to access all the internal workings of the gaming machine more readily. As both display means in a dual display gaming machine system will be accessible along with other internal components to the gaming machine whilst only having to open one door, the engineer or attendant as the case may be, will be relinquished of the burden of having to undo 2 locks, and hold both doors open whilst performing their work.

The display means may comprise of a Cathay Ray Tub monitor, TFT display, liquid crystal display, rear projection display, a plasma display, a back light display, physical reels, or any other display means as known in the art. The art of affixing such display means to a gaming doorframe or gaming machine as well known in the art may require screws, bolts, adhesive, braces, sliding plates, rollers, frames, hinges, locks or other such means to ensure they are securely fastened.

The doorframe would preferably be rectangular in shape with equal length sides, however the actual frame width and height would depend on the model of gaming machine for which the doorframe will be attached. Alternatively, the doorframe may also vary in general shape to accommodate any further style or aesthetic presentation required by the doorframe. Preferably the doorframe would also fit snugly to a gaming machine cabinet, where the cabinet contains the internal workings of the gaming machine, and will serve to protect the otherwise exposed backings of the display means. The doorframe may be affixed to the gaming machine by many different means. More commonly, a full length hinge is affixed to both the inside rim of the doorframe and the gaming machine's cabinet to accompany the weight of the doorframe, however strongly attached hinges placed at various points along the rim of the doorframe and gaming machine would also suffice. Preferably, the inner wall of the gaming machine would also be re-enforced so as to accommodate the additional of any display means, where the display means have been attached to the doorframe.

Brief description of the drawings

The invention will be further described by way of example with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of a gaming console according to one embodiment of the present invention;

Fig.2 is a schematic diagram of a top portion of a gaming console's doorframe with 2 open portals.

Fig.3 is a schematic diagram of a top portion of a gaming console's doorframe with 1 open portal with 2 display means sections.

Fig.4 is a schematic diagram of a top portion of a gaming console's doorframe with 1 open portal with 3 display means sections.

Fig.5 is a schematic diagram of a top portion of a gaming console's doorframe illustrating the perspective of a player.

Detailed description of preferred embodiments

Figure 1 shows a gaming console 10 with a doorframe 15 attached to it, which is capable of supporting 2 display means 17a and 17b, being mounted on or behind the doorframe at differing angles in relation to each other. Preferably, the display means 28a and 28b are mounted one above the other, are viewable through the portals 17a and 17b respectively, and are in close proximity so as to aid the view of both display means at the same time, and aid in limiting the size of the doorframe. Other preferable features of the gaming console 10 can be found in the gaming console 10 having an operating panel 20 on which there is located a coin slot 22, a banknote slot 24, stake selectors 26, and a game initiator means 28. It should be appreciated that the operating panel 20, coin slot 22, bank note slot 24, stake selector, and game initiation means may individually or as a whole be accessible in a remote location to the gaming console 10, and may include additional controls, input or out put devices as are required. Generally, the display 28a and 28b would be used to display to the player a series of symbols or various gaming material (not shown) for which a game of chance will be played (not shown), however the displays may also be used for other purposes, such as intermittent advertising or promotional materials. A third display means, promotional material, belly panel, game rules, or game pay tables can be provided in a lower section 27c of the gaming console 10 if required.

Figure 2 depicts the upper portion 16 of a doorframe 15 of a gaming console 10, with 2 open portals 17a and 17b allowing differing size displays to be mounted on the doorframe 15 or within the gaming console 10 facing towards a person viewing the doorframes 15 frontal side. The viewing areas of the display means are angled in accordance with the open portals 17a and 17b to allow viewing of the display means 28a and 28b, with the display means being affixed to the interior of the doorframe 15, or the gaming console 10 allowing minimal gaps between the display means and the doorframe. Additionally, 41 depicts the obtuse angle the 2 display areas generally coincided when viewing the front

surface of the doorframe where. Of course, the display means may be separated by a gap or curvature, whereby the actual vertex joining the 2 angles would meet at a corresponding point located behind the doorframe. Figure 3 further depicts an upper portion 16 of a doorframe 15 with a single open portal 17c with 2 distinct sections 32a and 32b being substantially separated by a horizontal edge running coplanar with the top side of the section 32a and with the base section of 32b indicated by the dotted line 31 where the sides of each section 32a and 32b meet. The sections 32a and 32b of the open portal 17c are angled differently to again accommodate the angles required for a player to more comfortably view both displays. In an alternative embodiment the display means may also be mounted to either the gaming console 10 or doorframe 15 to allow a viewer to further adjust either display means 28a or 28b by changing the original angle of the display to adjust the viewing angle.

Figure 4 illustrates an upper portion 16 embodiment using a doorframe 15 to be used by a gaming console 10. Similar to the embodiment in figure 3, the open portal 17c uses a single opening comprised of multiple sections 32a to 32c, to view multiple display means affixed to the doorframe itself, or to the actual gaming console. The sections are divided clearly by the incline or angle 31 for that section being different from at least one other section's angle.

Figure 5 simply demonstrates the benefit of using multiple angled displays on a doorframe 15, by showing a player's 19 line of sight 18a and 18b when viewing multiple display areas 28a and 28b located in portals 17a and 17b respectively, to provide the player 19 with a more pleasurable viewing experience.